

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Re: [H.B. No. 5140](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE HAND-HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS IN THE STATE. (ENV)

Dear Members of the Environment committee,

I am contacting you in support of implementing a statewide ban on harvesting horseshoe crabs,

For the past 6 years I have spent as much time as I can in the months of May and June watching spawning horseshoe crabs. I look for tagged crabs, crabs that need to be righted, educating beachgoers, etc. I do not track the number of crabs I see each time I go out, but in 2017 I began keeping track of the number of tagged crabs I've recaptured. I go out to the same beach, appx. same number of days. I track the time I go out and make a point to go out whenever possible during the high tide in the days prior to and following a new and full moon. Although there was several bad weather days last year, the steep decline in the past couple of years was shocking. In 2019 I recovered **230** tagged crabs, 203 in 2020. In 2021 I recaptured only **68** tagged crabs.

As you know, horseshoe crabs have been living and procreating in exactly the same manner for over **250 million years**. They have few natural predators. Humans are their only threat. This is not exactly a new revelation. I submit to you an article from the Times from 1928:

[https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1928/07/08/94147350.pdf?pdf\\_redirect=true&ip=0](https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1928/07/08/94147350.pdf?pdf_redirect=true&ip=0)

We have since acknowledged their incredibly important role in science. As an insulin dependent T1 diabetic, they literally save my life on a daily basis. They also help save the lives of everyone that relies on vaccines to keep them from getting sick. Who are we as a species when we recognize their value yet we fail to do what we can to protect them?

Sincerely,  
Jen Budai  
Stratford, CT.